ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

New River Missionary

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Concord Church,

FAYETTE COUNTY, ALABAMA.

From October 6th to 10th, 1888

OFFICERS:

W. G. BAKER, Moderator. J. E. COX, Clerk.

J. D. THOMAS, Cor. Secretary.

The next session will be held with Oak Grove Church, commencing on Saturday before 1st Sabbath in October, 1889.

FAYETTE C. H., ALA.:

SENTINEL PRINT. E. J. SMITH, PRINTER.

1888.

MINUTES

OF THE

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION.

On Saturday, 13th of October, 1888, the New River Baptist Association assembled, in eighteenth session, with Concord Baptist Church, in Fayette county, Alabama, at 11 o'clock A. M.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. W. G. Baker. J. E. Cox, Secretary.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator. The epistles from the churches of the body were called for, and read by brethren W. J. Trull and W. B. Melton, in their regular order, as follows:

CHURCHES AND NAMES OF DELEGATES.

Fayetteville Church: T. J. Tate.

Mt. Joy: Eld. W. J. Blankenship, A. J. Reeves and J. A. Harbin.

Chappel Hill: J. M. Aashcraft and J. F. Asheraft.

Shady Grove: A. W. Pinion.

Elbethel: W. F. Gilpin and M. D. Killingsworth.

Concord: Elds. L. C. Shirley, J. J. Patterson, and bro. W. B. Melton.

Sipsey Valley: Licentiate H. T. Wright.

Oak Ridge: Not represented.

Mt. Lebanon: A. L. Stanley, J. N. Collins, and Licentiate J. W. Graham

Pilgrim's Rest: Eld. Frank Wilson and brother W. I. Yerby.

Friendship: S. A. Stanley and E. Jones.

Mt. Pleasant: S. L. Stocks.

Mt. Pisgah: Elder W. G. Baker, F. M. Lowrey and G. W. Gardner.

New Hope: M. Shirey and J. B. Vickery.
Shepherd: Elder G. W. Gravlee.
Union: J. S. Hollingsworth and C. J. McCollum.
Union, (Marion co.) Not represented.
Oak Grove: Not represented.
Salem: Rev. J B Ferguson and Licentiate A N Reeves.
Harmony Grove: Rev. W. A. Huckabee and Licentiate D. W. Dickinson.
Hopewell: J. E. Mills.
Pleasant Hill: Elds. J. E. Cox, J. B. Huckabee and Samuel Stevens.
Friendship, (Tuscaloosa co.) Licentiate I. L. Collins and brother J. D. Thomas.
Meadow Branch: W. J. Trull, W. H. Smothers and O. P. Godfrey.
Mount Olive: Rev. J. S. Shirley.
Siloam: Rev. Jonathan Taylor and J. N. Tucker.
Arbor Springs: Rev. J. R. Barnett, J. W. Falls and S. M. Renfroe.
Philadelphia: P. M. Newton and Licentiate J. S. Townsend.

The Association permanently organized by re-electing Elds. W. G. Baker, Moderator, and J. E. Cox, Clerk; and J. D. Thomas, Corresponding Secretary—Elder J. W. Rogers and brother H. G. Amerson, of North River Association, acting as tellers.

On motion, adjourned until 2 o'clock P M.

After a sumptuous dinner—which was on the ground—had been eaten by the very large congregation, the delegates re-assembled in the house, pursuant to adjournment, and decided to postpone the opening sermon until candle-lighting.

Petitionary letters from newly constituted churches were called for, when delegates, P. M. Newton and J. S. Townsend presented a letter from Philadelphia church—(from which the Association withdrew, a few years since) asking re-admittance into fellowship with this Body, and making satisfactory acknowledgement of the wrong; whereupon, on motion, the Church was heartily restored, and the delegates warmly welcomed to seats.

Received correspondence as follows:

North River Association—Elders J. W. Rogers and J.

H. Pool; and brethren H. G. Amerson and J. F. McDuff.

Union.—Elder E. Howell.

Tuscaloosa.—Elders W. M. Blackwelder, R. J. Mayfield, and J. E. Wilson, C. E. Rice, M. H. Sudduth, Jas White and William Dodson.

Canaan.—G. T. Green.

Yellow Creek.—T. J. Ray.

Returned Correspondence as follows:

To the North River.—Elders J. B. Ferguson, G. W. Gravlee, J. S. Shirley, J. E. Cox; and brethren J. E. Mills and D. W. Dickinson.

Tuscaloosa.—Elders G. W. Gravlee, J. J. Patterson, J. B. Ferguson, J. R. Barnett, and brother J. D. Thomas.

A motion prevailed to open correspondence with the Canaan Association, and the following brethren were appointed correspondents to that Association: Rev. L. C. Shirley, J. H. McGuire and Dr. R. W. Woods.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES TO SERVE DURING THE PRESENT SESSION.

On Documents.—G. W. Gravlee, J. S. Shirley, J. W. Graham and Frank Wilson.
On Preaching.—F. M. Lowrey, A. J. Reeves, M. D. Killingsworth with Concord Deacons.
On Nominations.—T. J. Tate, A. J. Reeves, J. W. Falls and W. J. Trull.
On Arrangement.—L. C. Shirley, W. B. Melton and J. D. Thomas.
On Education.—J. E. Cox, J. D. Thomas, J. B. Vickery and J. Taylor.
On Finance.—J. R. Barnett, J. A. Harbin and J. S. Hollingsworth.
On Deceased Ministers.—J. B. Hickabee, J. B. Ferguson, A. J. Reeves, J. E. Mills and G. W. Gravlee.
On Literature.—J. N. Collins, W. H. Smothers and H. T. Wright.

On motion, adjourned until 8:30 o'clock A. M. Monday. Prayer by Elder J. B. Ferguson.

EVENING SERVICE.

The delegates and congregation met, at 7:30 o'clock P. M., and Rev. W. G. Baker delivered the opening sermon from John 5:11, to an attentive audience.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

At 9 o'clock A. M., a Sabbath School Mass-meeting was held, brother G. T. Green and Elder G. W. Gravlee, conducting it. Several addresses were made for the purpose of encouraging Sunday School work.

At the earnest request of Rev. G. W. Gravlee, the Body invited Rev. W. M. Blackwelder to preach the 11 o'clock sermon, which he kindly consented to do, taking for his theme, "Care for souls." Text: "Refuge failed me; No man careth for my soul." Ps. 142:4. The sermon was

a happy effort, melting many to tears, and infusing new Missionary life and determination in the hearts of many —which was demonstrated in a contribution of $20.00 for State Missions at the close of the service. Eld. Blackwelder still lives in the hearts of the people who heard that discourse. At night, Elder J. H. Pool preached to a large congregation, and we think good was accomplished.

SECOND DAY, MONDAY, 8:30 A. M.

The delegates having assembled pursuant to adjournment, after Scripture reading by the Moderator, and singing by the congregation, J. B. Huckabee led in prayer.

Called for report of Committee on Arrangement:

Your Committee on Arrangement would report as follows: 1, Return Correspondence; 2, Read Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum; 3, Report of District Meetings; 4, Report on Temperance; 5, Report of Mission Board; 6, Report on Education; 7, Report on Literature; 8, Report on Superannuated Ministers; 9, Report of Treasurer; 10, Appoint Treasurer; 11, Read Corresponding Letter; 12, Report on Finance; 13, Report on Sabbath Schools; 14, Report on Nominations; 15, Report on Documents; 16, Report on Deceased Ministers; 17, Report on Ministerial Education; 18, Miscellaneous Business. L. C. SHIRLEY, Chm'n.

The Moderator invited visiting ministers to seats.

Brother W. B. Melton, at the Moderator's request, read Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

Report of First District:

The First District held its session with Friendship Church, Tuscaloosa county, at the appointed time, and located its next sesion to be held with Shady Grove Church, on Friday before the first Sabbath in Sept, 1889; Eld. W. J. Akin to preach the opening sermon, from 1st Peter, 3:18, 19 and 20. First subject for discussion: What is the difference between the kingdom of Christ and the Church? Opened by I. N. Asheraft and Rev. J. R. Barnett. Second subject: To what extent is the Church an independent body? Opened by Frank Wilson and W. T. Wright.

W. B. MELTON, Clerk. J. B. FERGUSON, Mod'r.

Report of Second District:

The Second District met with Pleasant Hill Church on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1888, and located its next session at Hopewell Church, to begin on Friday before the 4th Sunday in August, 1889; Elder J. P. Dickinson to preach the opening sermon, D. W. Dickinson, alternate; Elder W. G. Baker to preach at 11 o'clock A. M. on Sunday, W. A. Huckabee, alternate. First question for discussion: Is a child of God on probation in this life? Opened by J. S. Shirley and W. J. Blankenship. Second question: For what purpose did Jesus require baptism? Opened by W. A. Huckabee and D. W. Dickinson. Located the next session of the New River Association to be held with Oak Grove Church. J. S. SHIRLEY, Mod'r.

M. D. KILLINGSWORTH, Clerk.

Report of Committee on Temperance:

Your Committee on Temperance, report that, from the best information they can gather, dram-drinking in our churches, is on the decline, and we pray that God may assist us in removing this curse from our midst, which we fear has caused the destruction of so many precious souls! We also pray God to hasten the day when dram drinking will not be known in our midst. W. B. MELTON, Ch'n.

Pending the adoption of the report, several enthusiastic speeches were made.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved 1st, That we, the New River Association, covenant together not to assist in bringing back the sale of intoxicating drinks in our county—but that we will do all in our power to drive the curse from our land, and that we will not sign any petition in its favor.

Resolved 2nd, That this Body in session memorialize the next session of the General Assembly of this State in the Legislature, to see to it that the Prohibition Act for this (Fayette) county remain unchanged.

On motion, adjourned until after preaching by Elders J. B. Huckabee and R. J. Mayfield: after which, the report of the Committee on Missions was read, elaborately discussed, and adopted as follows:

The Mission Board of the New River Association report

that, December 31, 1887, the Board (L. C. Shirley, J. H. McGuire, W. F. Baker by proxy,) met. J. H. McGuire was appointed Secretary. The Board appointed Elder J. B. Huckabee our Missionary to preach in the most destitute parts of this Association, supposed to be near Northeast corner of our bounds. The Board agreed to pay him the amount collected by us for that purpose, said amount to be reported to the State Board. This Board, or the Association, is not bound to the Missionary for any definite sum. The Churches were requested, and notified, to forward the subscriptions pledged by them to the Chairman or Secretary of this Board. The amounts collected are as follows:

From B. F. Lowrey, Dec. 2, '87, $5; D. G. Kirkland, for Mt. Pleasant Church, $2.30; J. H. Estis, Mt. Lebanon Church, $2.50; J. H. McGuire, $5; L. C. Shirley, $7.65; for Concord Church, $2.35; W. F. Baker, 1888, for J. F. Willis, $1; for J. W. Graham, $1; for Mt. Lebanon church $1; by J. W. Graham for same, 75c., and for H. T. Wright, 50c.; from Chappel Hill, $1.75; W. F. Baker, 25c., and for R. Wright, 50c.; Frank Gilpin, $1; M. Jones, $1; J. S. Shirley, $2; Frank Wilson for Pilgrim's Rest, $5; J. F. Asheraft for Chappel Hill, $2; J. W. Trull for Meadow Branch, $5; G. W. Gravlee, $10; J. H. Barnett for Arbor Springs, $3.50; collected by J. B. Huckabee, while on his Mission work, $40.10.—Total, $100.80. Paid J. B. Huckabee by Ex. Board, Dec. 31, '87, $22.15; March 18, 1888, $2; April 3, $3.50; Oct. 15, $32.15; collected by J. B. Huckabee, $40.10; H. T. Wright, 75c.; Postage, 15c.; J. B. collected, 50c.—Total, $101.30.

L. C. SHIRLEY, Chm'n.

Rev. W. M. Blackwelder, of North Port, presented the claims of Home and Foreign Missions in a very touching manner; and a collection was taken up, amounting to $14.00 for Foreign Missions and $2.50 for Home Missions.

Adjourned, with prayer by brother Ira Collins. Elds. J. B. Ferguson and J. M. Chism preached at night.

THIRD DAY—TUESDAY, 8:30 A. M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Association assembled for work; and, after religious exercises, conducted by the

Moderator, a resolution to co-operate with the State Miss ion Board was offered and adopted as follows:

Whereas, our State Mission Board has published the amount needed, to carry on its work in this State, and has apportioned to each Association the amount each should reasonably contribute to this general fund, and suggests that this Association should raise $250; and believing this reasonable and right, be it

Resolved, By Ministers, Pastors and Delegates, composing the New River Association, that we will endeavor to raise this amount suggested, and, in order that success may crown our efforts, we will, from this day systematically try to take collections at our several Churches and appointments.

The report of the Committee on Education was read, and the claims of Howard and Central Colleges, with Judson Institute were warmly pressed, as also the Fayette Male and Female Institute. The report was adopted as follows: Your Committee propose to present no new thoughts on a subject, about which so much has been written and talked. We are pleased to note that there is an advancement in the interest of education and the establishment of institutions of learning all over our country. The educational atmosphere is growing more pure and healthful. We realize that the age in which we live, with all its vast and gigantic undertakings, must be distinguished; not for the influence which it has exerted on material substances alone; but for that which is brought to bear on intellect, morals, refinement and civilization.

J. E. Cox, Chm'n.

Report on Literature was adopted:

Your Committee having considered the importance of taking and reading our denominational literature, we would recommend that the "Alabama Baptist," which plainly sets forth our denominational views, by which, our people may be educated as Baptists, by being brought in contact with the leading men of our denomination. We are glad to note that several of our Sabbath Schools are using "Kind Words" literature, published by the Kind Words Publishing Society, Atlanta, Ga., which we do earnestly recommend to our Sabbath Schools, and we in-

sist that parents should be more careful in the selection of reading matter for their children. Such papers as "Zion's Watch Tower," "Church Union," "Stumbling Stone," Novels, &c., &c., should be avoided, as hurtful and poisonous to the mind; and we think, to the cause of Christ, it is injurious to waste time and money with trashy literature of any kind. Respectfully submitted,

J. N. Collins, Chm'n.

As the Chairman of the Committee on Indigent Ministers was absent, this item of business was passed.

The following reports were adopted:

Treasurer's Report.

Rec'd from Com. on Finance, for Minutes	$30.75	
For Association	15.50	
For Indigent Ministers	7.95	$54.20
Paid J. B. Jones for 700 Minutes	24.00	
Paid Elds. Andrews, King and Owings	7.95	
Paid for Postage, Stationery, &c	.50	
Clerk's fee	10.00	
Balance on hand	11.75	54.20

J. E. Cox, Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed Clerk Treasurer.

The Corresponding Letter was read and adopted. See on last page of these Minutes.

Report of Finance Committee.

Your Committee on Finance report that they have received from the various Churches the following amounts for Minute fund and Associational purposes: Minute fund, $31.55; Associational fund, $13.35. Total, $44.90.

J. R. Barnett, Chm'n.

On Sabbath Schools.

1st S. S. District.—Your Committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following report: We began work as early as the winter would permit, and held three S. S. conventions; the second at Pilgrim's Rest Church, April, and the third at Shepherd in July. We think these meetings did good in the communities where they were held. The Sabbath School question was ably discussed at all of them.

Humbly submitted. E. Howell, Chm'n.

2nd S. S. District.—Your Committee for this District would report, that we have held three S. S. conventions: one at Mt. Joy in April, the 2nd at Pleasant Hill in July, and the 3 d at Harmony Grove in September. Arrangements were made to have lectures delivered at each of these meetings. We trust that good was accomplished by these meetings, in the communities where they were held, yet much more could have been done, but for the manifest indifference of the Sunday Schools themselves, several of which did not attend these conventions. The subject of Sunday Schools was thoroughly discussed at each of these gatherings.

Query: Would it not be best to hold these conventions only annually, in a summer month, at a leisure time of the year? And let the committee labor to secure the attendance by a delegation from the schools, with all the S. S. workers and preachers. Humbly submitted,

J. Taylor, Ch'n 1st S. S. Dist.

The Association, on motion, advise that annual S. S. conventions be held, at the discretion of the committees.

Committee on Nominations.

Your Committee on Nominations beg to report, that the next session of this Association will be held with Oak Grove Church, 19 miles N. W. from Fayette C. H., commencing on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1889—Eld. J. E. Cox to preach the introductory sermon, J. Taylor, alternate, before the opening of the session; Elder J. B. Huckabee to preach at 11 o'clock on Sunday, J. B. Ferguson, alternate.

Mission Board: J. H. McGuire, Ch'n., L. C. Shirley, W. F. Baker, A. J. Reeves, M. C. Bowling, M. L. Parks and W. H. Smothers.

Ministerial Education: Eld. G. W. Gravlee, Ch'n., A. M. Nuckols and Zack Savage.

Aged and Infirm Ministers: A. M. Nuckols, Ch'n., Jno. H. Newton, W. B. Shirley and W. I Yerby.

Submitted, T. J. Tate, Ch'n.

On Documents.

Your Committee on Documents would report, that having examined all the papers submitted to us, we find

1st. 86 baptisms; also a number received by "experience" (which we do not understand). 2nd. There are eight Sabbath Schools reported, and, on inquiry we learn from brethren, there are 10 more not reported to this Association. We would call special attention to this deficiency in the work of the clerks of churches. 3rd. We also notice a general deficiency in the reports from churches on various items—such as Pastor's salaries, State, Home and Foreign Missions. Prayer-meetings are also over-looked—only a few reported. Respectfully submitted,

G. W. GRAVLEE, Chm'n.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your Committee on Deceased Ministers submit the following: Since the last meeting of this body, it has pleased God in his wise providence to remove from us three of our brethren, viz: Elds. D. W. Andrews, Albert M. King and W. L. Jones, thus releasing them from their labors to rest. Eld. D. W. Andrews was born in the State of S. C. in the year 1801, June 15th; was baptized in December, 1823, by Elder B. Northcut, into the fellowship of the Poplar Springs Baptist Church, S. C., and at once commenced exhorting sinners to come to Jesus. He was licensed to preach the Gospel in 1824; was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry in 1831, and in 1832 he emigrated to Alabama, settling in Tuscaloosa co., near North Port, and proceeded in his earnest, zealous way to preach Jesus to dying men and women. During the two or three subsequent years his labors were so blessed that the North River Association was organized by him, either in the year 1834 or 35, with 7 churches, containing 150 members; from which beginning now exists four Associations, viz: North River, Yellow Creek, New River and Clear Creek, nearly all of which is the fruit of this small beginning. Brother Andrews was an able, earnest and zealous minister of the Gospel; unflinching in his devotion to the cause of his Master, in prosperity or adversity, continuing faithfully in his life work, until age and infirmity disabled him, but a few months before his death. During his last illness, which was very painful, he bore it without a murmur, oftimes remarking he was only awaiting the call of his Savior. Thus he passed away in the triumph of a living faith, to his rest from labor,

November, 1887. During his life he compiled a hymn book, "Pilgrim's Choice," most of which was his own composition. Near the terminus of his life Brother Andrews wrote, and had published, a short sketch of his life and labors, called "The History of David, or the Preacher's Looking-Glass." At his death Brother Andrews was near eighty-seven years of age.

Brother Albert M. King was born in Shelby county, Ala., February 5th, 1830. When he was 15 years old his parents removed to Tishomingo county, Miss., where he made a profession of Christ and joined the Baptist Church at Bethlehem. At about the age of 22, while preparing to enter the ministry, he met with the misfortune to loose his eyesight, in the State of Mississippi, after which he returned to Alabama, and was licensed to preach by Mt. Joy Church (now of the New River Association), April 1, 1866, and was ordained by Pleasant Grove Church, Yellow Creek Association, April 11, 1867; Presbytery, Rob't Adkins and J. A. Spann. Brother King was a remarka ble man. Blind, as he was, few men could excell him in presenting the Gospel, in all its subjects; connecting the parts so closely with arguments as to make it unanswera-ble. Brother King, in his last hours, (he was confined to his room for 11 or 12 days) often spoke of his departure from this life to that in the beyond, expressing great joy at the thought that he would soon be where he could see as well as others. He breathed his last at 3 A. M. August 14, 1888, being 58 years, 6 months and 9 days old. Thus another veteran rests from his labors, awaiting the resurrection of all the bodies of the Saints of God.

Brother W. L. Jones was born in the State of South Carolina, Greenville District, and came to this State the latter part of the year 1859, with a letter from a Baptist Church showing him to be a licensed minister. Placing his membership with Mt. Pleasant Church, by which Church he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry (Presbytery, Rev. Enoch Dodson and others) in the year 1860. Brother Jones was zealous in his work for many years, until age caused him to loose much of his en ergy, though he continued to preach and work for the advancement of the cause of his Master. When he knew the time was near when he would lay his armor by, he

was triumphant in faith, and happy in the prospect for life and immortality in the beyond. His death occurred on the 22d day of December, 1887.

In the death of these servants of God, the Churches and this Association have lost much. While we mourn our loss, and extend to the bereaved families our sympathy and condolence, we rejoice in the assurance of the greatest truth, that we shall see them again, and with them enjoy Heaven, with all that Heaven means. May God sanctify this dispensation of His providence to the good of all who knew these their brethren. Amen.

J. B. HUCKABEE, Chm'n.

Adjourned for dinner. Prayer by W. A. Huckabee.

Assembled pursuant to adjournment at 2 o'clock P. M. Miscellaneous business was declared in order. The committee appointed to prepare a memorial to the next session of the Legislature presented the following, which was adopted:

Memorial of the New River Baptist Association in Annual Session Convened.

To the General Assembly of Alabama, showeth that, Whereas, we have in this (Fayette) county, a law prohibiting the gift or sale of alcoholic stimulants, which law we have tested for four years past; and whereas, it hath come to our hearing that certain citizens are making an effort, by circulating a petition to your Honorable body praying for the repeal of said law; we, the ministers, delegates and messengers composing the above named Association of Baptist people in this county, desireth that this law remain in full force. We therefore call upon you to consider well what terrible devastation and crime the repeal of said law would produce in our midst, in the ruin of our boys, in the destruction of peace and happiness in many families and communities in our county, and that you hear this our prayer and refuse to repeal said law; but, rather amend, so as to make it more operative, forcible and effective. W. G. BAKER, Moderator.

J. E. Cox, Clerk.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education submit the following: We addressed the Churches, asking them for

means to aid in paying brother H. T. Wright's expenses; and have received in response to our request only $2. Paid last session, $6.50. We have only $8.50 to use in aid of Ministerial Education. Bro. Wright has been in school part of the year, and wishes to continue his studies, that he may be better qualified for the work of the ministry.—He is worthy of favorable consideration.

G. W. Gravlee, Ch'n.

A motion prevailed to defray the expenses of a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention—provided there is a sufficient amount of funds in the Treasurer's hands—whereupon, Bev. G. W. Gravlee was elected to represent this body in the Southern Baptist Convention, at Memphis, Tenn., in May, 1889.

The former S. S. Committees were continued, with the addition of J. H. McGuire as Chairman.

Resolutions.

Resolved, That the Clerk have as many copies of the Minutes of the present session printed, as the minute fund will pay for, and send them to the churches; retain the usual number for correspondence, and that he retain $12 for his services from the associational fund.

Resolved, That we so amend the Constitution—7th Article—that it read thus: "The Association thus formed shall choose by ballot a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall serve one year.

Resolved, That we tender our sincere thanks to Concord Church community for the princely manner in which they entertained us during this session of the Association.

Corresponding Letter.

The New River Baptist Association, to her sister Associations with which she is in Correspondence—Greeting:

We are now in session. We have had a most interesting time, and we feel grateful for the assistance of your Correspondents. We do not believe our labors have been in vain. We return correspondence as shown in the body of these Minutes. The next session of our Association will be held with Oak Grove Church, 4 miles S. E. of Guin, on the K. C. & B. R. R. at the usual time, when and where we trust, in the Providence of God, to meet you, in the person of your Correspondents. The God of peace, bless you.

J. D. Thomas, Cor. Sec'y.

STATISTICAL TABLE, NEW RIVER ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	Sabbath Sch'ls	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dismissed by L.	Excluded	Died	Total Memb's'p	Minute Fund	Associa'n'l Fund
1st District.	W. L. Gideon	Troy, Miss	3	4	1					38	1 00	1 00
Fayetteville	Not represented											
Rock Mount	G. W. Greaves	Newtonsville	3				5			28		
Mt. Pleasant	J. W. Wilde	Ridge										
Sloe's Valley	G. W. Greaves	Newtonsville	3							33		
Shepherd	W. J. Hooper	New Lexington										
Shady Grove	G. W. Greaves	Newtonville	5	12						57	99 00	99 00
Pilgrim Rest	J. M. Gibson	Ridge										
Concord	G. W. Hooper	New Lexington	3	4						157	99 00	99 00
Arbor Springs	J. B. Ferguson	Samantha	3	3						42	99 00	99 00
Salem	J. B. Watford	Braxton	3	3						72	99 00	99 00
Oak Ridge	J. M. Gibson	Cane Springs	3	3						74	99 00	99 00
Chappel Hill	J. M. Dyer	Aure								35		
Meadow Branch	R. J. Mayfield									74	99 00	99 00
Friendship, Texas co.										63	15 00	90 00
2nd district.												
Mt. Olive	J. P. Dickson	Fayette C. H.								53	15 00	75 00
Pleasant Hill	J. G. Baker	Bankston								41	99 00	99 00
Mt. Lebanon	W. F. Willis	Fayette C. H.								63	99 00	99 00
Joy	J. W. Blankenship	Ballard								39	99 00	99 00
Mt. Pisgah	W. G. Baker	Bankston								45	99 00	99 00
Friendship	W. G. Blankenship	Ballard								76	99 00	99 00
Union	Jas. McCollum	New River								25	99 00	99 00
Oak Grove	A. Green	Gulph								34	99 00	99 00
Siloam	A. Taylor	Winfield								33	99 00	99 00
Elberfeld	J. P. Dickinson	Fayette C. H.								29	99 00	99 00
New Hope	J. P. Shirley									36	1 00	99 00
Harmony Grove	J. P. Dickinson									29	99 00	99 00
Union, Marion county	A. W. Green	Gulph								156	2 00	99 00
Hopewell	A. Coalburn	New River								41	99 00	99 00
Philadelphia	W. G. Baker	Bankston								41	99 00	99 00

Meadow Branch reports Pastor's salary, $30; for State Missions, $6; Mt. Pisgah, Pastor's salary, $45; for State Missions, $6 30; Hopewell reports Pastor's salary, $17 50; Pleasant Hill reports $8 85 for State Missions, and Arbor Springs $3 50 for Home Missions

Request to Churches.—Only one S. S. systematically reported. Only 8 report at all; but 10 other Sun lay Schools are at work. One church reports nothing in the letter for Minutes, &c. The Clerks were too hasty. Brethren, please send with your letters, reports of all you are doing, so that the Clerk can make an intelligent report, in a statistical table, of all the workings of the church. CLERK.

N. B.—The printing and distributing of these Minutes has been delayed on account of an accidental wounded foot of the Printer, received just at the commencement of this work, much to his regret. CLERK.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe there is one only living and true God; and there are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one.

2d. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3d. We believe in the doctrine of human depravity, that it disables man from keeping the law of life; and that man's recovery and final salvation depends entirely upon the provision which Christ has made and offered, upon the condition of faith.

4th. We believe in the doctrine of election, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the Truth.

5th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the merit of Jesus Christ.

6th. We believe that Saints shall persevere in grace, and not one of them shall finally fall away.

7th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment; and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

As for Gospel Order: 1st. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, who have gained christian fellowship with each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord and one another and have agreed to keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel.

2d. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church, and only law-giver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual, and the discipline of the church is intended for the reclaiming of the christians who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and the peace and unity of the churches.

3d. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and conscientiously do believe the true mode of baptism is immersion.

4th. We believe that none have a right to administer the ordinances but ministers of the Gospel, regularly ordained to that office.

5th. We believe that none but those regularly baptized have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper.

OFFICERS OF NEW RIVER ASSOCIATION.

Moderator:

W. G. BAKER, ... Bankston, Ala.

Clerk:

J. E. COX, ... Fayette C. H., "

Corresponding Secretary:

J. D. THOMAS, ... Newtonville, "

Treasurer:

J. E. COX ..... Fayette C. H., "

Board on Missions:

J. H. McGUIRE, Chm'n, L. C. SHIRLEY, W. F. BAKER, A. J. REEVES, M. C. BOWLING, M. L. PARKS, W. H. SMOTHERS.

Ministerial Education:

G. W. GRAVLEE, Chm'n, A. M. NUCKOLS, ZACK SAVAGE.

Aged and Infirm Ministers:

A. M. NUCKOLS, Ch'n, J. H. NEWTON, W. B. SHIRLEY, INGE YERBY.

Sunday School:

J. H. McGUIRE, Ch'n, J. TAYLOR, W. B. MELTON.